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Sunday

# Empire

JUNE 30, 1968

THE MAGAZINE OF THE DENVER POST  
VOICE OF THE ROCKY MOUNTAIN EMPIRE \*

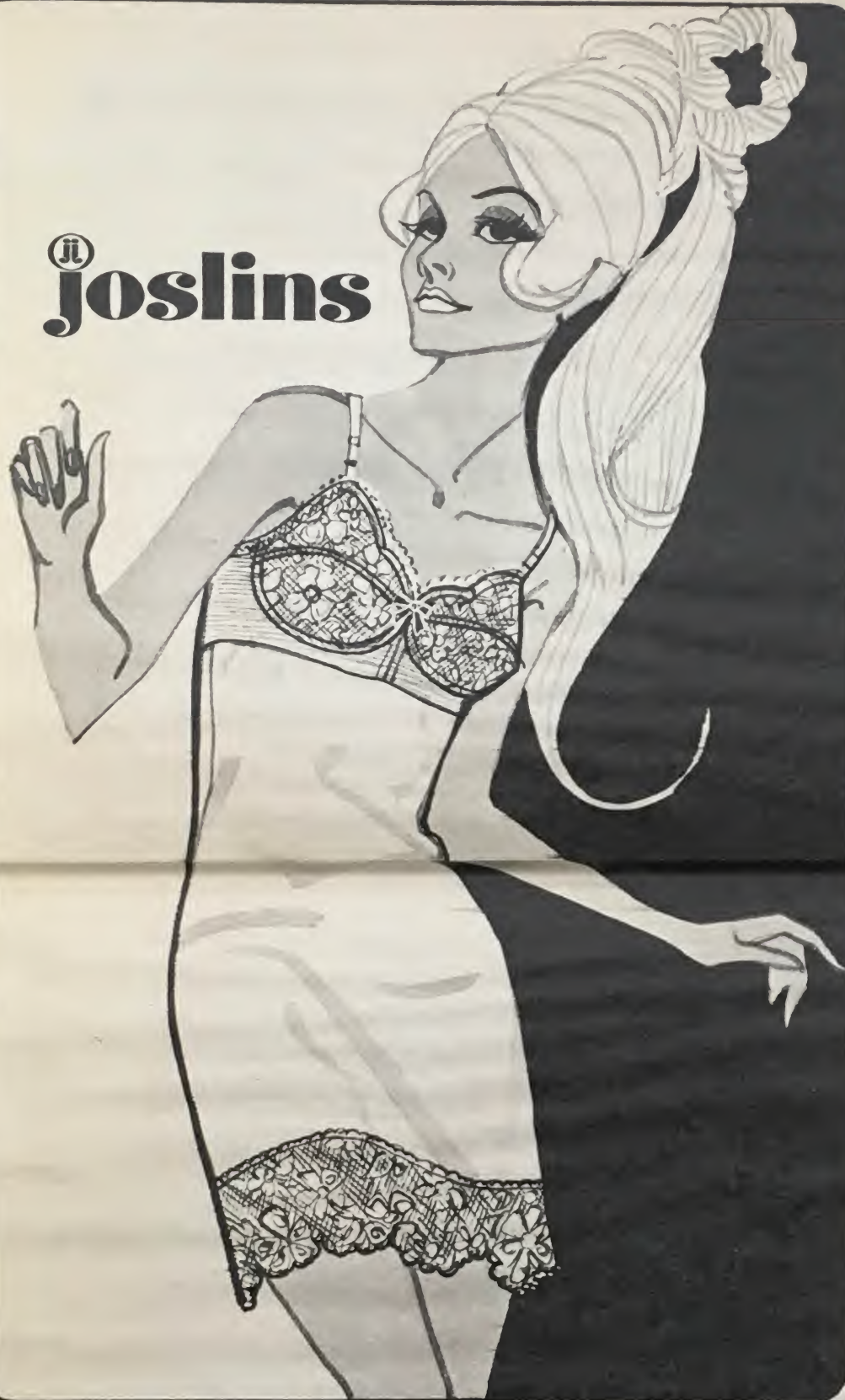
## The Denver Mint's disappearing quarters

see page 24





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**Sunday Empire**

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**H**ERE it is the end of June, and within ten days the Denver Broncos begin their pre-season football training program. Rookie quarterbacks and centers report for practice on July 10, followed at short intervals by players injured last year, other rookies, and finally the veterans. With intensive, bruising practice scheduled in preparation for the season-opener Sept. 15 (against Cincinnati), there will be little opportunity to heal old injuries if last year's casualties aren't in shape by now. To find out how the injured players are faring, *Empire* dispatched staff writer Zeke Scher to the Bronco camp where he talked to each. Scher's report, *Broncoville's walking wounded*, starts on page 8.

**LAST YEAR** there were 7,280 marriages in Denver, and during the same time 4,540 divorce suits were filed in Denver's District Court. Officials estimate 30 per cent of the suits were dropped, which means that more than 3,100 marriages were dissolved — about three divorces for every seven marriages. An attorney who handled many of these cases has found that certain years in a marriage are particularly dangerous, and that the high-divorce periods can be foreseen. Olga Curtis reports on his findings in *Your divorce is predictable*, page 30.

#### ABOUT THE COVER

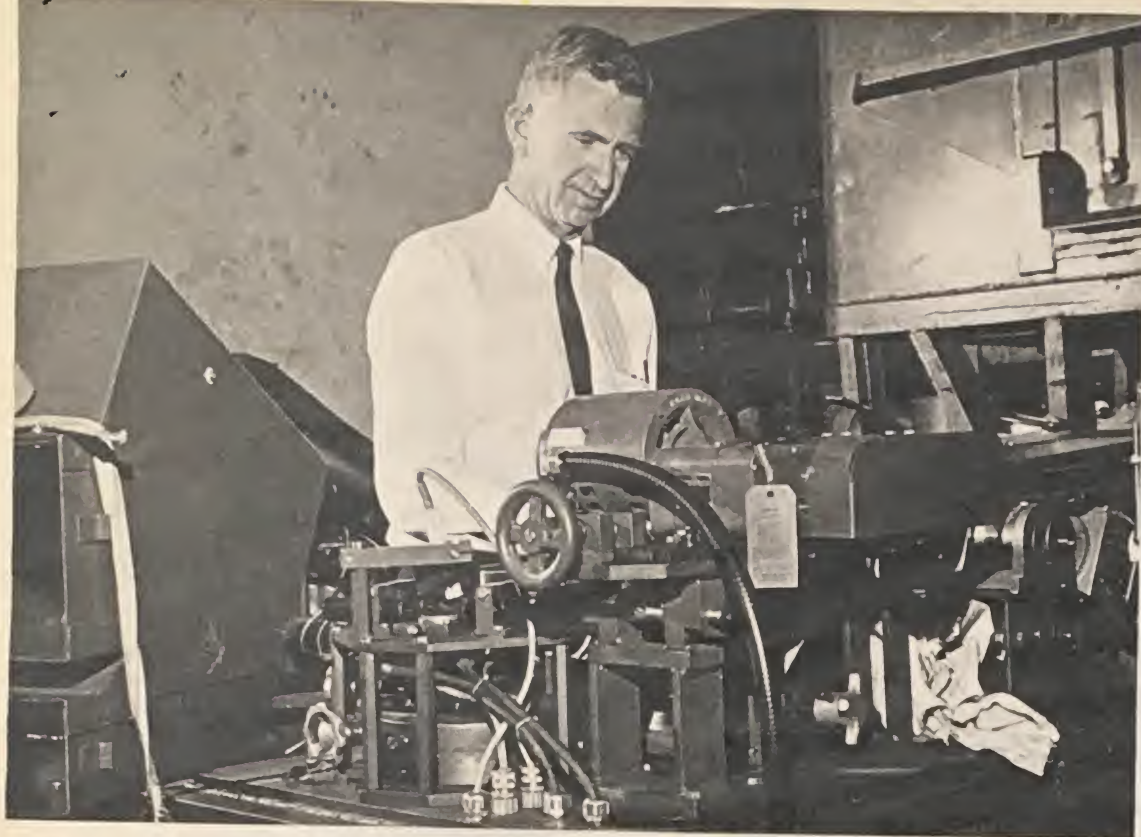
The melting quarter on today's cover was photographed by George Crouter. He insists he did not mutilate the coin, which is illegal, but how he got the effect is his secret.

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George Ambrose, industrial engineer at the Denver Mint, stands between two \$40,000 machines that separate silver quarters from clad coins.



William Rodgers dumps a pan of silver quarters into the crucible of an 1,850-degree electric furnace as Walter Engle follows up.



Rodgers pours the molten silver into the molds which produce the 1,000-ounce bars worth about \$2,000 each. Tom Garcia, left, and Engle assist in the "melt."

# The Denver

**T**HERE they were — dumping good old shiny silver quarters into an 1,850-degree electric furnace at the Denver Mint. It was enough to make a coin collector cry.

Since March 19, in an almost total news blackout, Denver Mint employees under orders from Washington have produced 3 million ounces of 90 per cent pure silver by melting quarters. That's 15 million quarters destroyed in only three months.

Last July 26, Federal Reserve





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# Mint's disappearing quarters

Banks at the request of the U.S. Treasury Department began delivering sacks of quarters and dimes to the Mint for possible melting down. The sacks stacked up in vaults all over the building. By early June 61,719 bags of quarters had been delivered. In each bag there are \$1,000 worth—4,000 quarters. That means the Mint, which produces coins for the nation, had received back 246,876,000 quarters, or \$61,719,000 worth.

Even more dimes were returned, also in \$1,000-bags. The federal banks delivered 85,577 bags of the "thin" ones—\$85 million worth—850 million coins. So far, none of the dimes has been melted.

The reason for all this is that the silver in silver coins is worth more than the value of the coin. Since there is a great industrial demand for silver, it makes sense to take silver coins out of circulation, reclaim the silver and sell it. The silver coins are being reclaimed by layers of copper and nickel, which first appeared in 1965.

The coins that are being returned to the Mint are a mixture of the silver and the clad quarters and dimes. The problem was to separate them. At first Mint employees tried it by hand. From three to 20 workers sat around picking out the silver coins for that bin and the clad ones for this bin.

"Even I helped," says Superintendent Marian Rossmiller. "It drove you nuts."

Then George Ambrose, industrial engineer with the Mint, got the first of two \$40,000 sorting machines made by the American Machinery & Foundry Co. This amazing machine "listens" to the ring of the coins at the rate of 33 per second and literally "kicks out" the ones that don't sound right. In this case, the clad coins get the boot.

It works like this:

Sacks of mixed up quarters are dumped into a big tank atop the sorter. The coins come out on to a vibratory feeder which leads them to a single track. They're rolling pretty fast now, 200 inches per second. Then it happens: the quarter rolls directly into a two-inch-long, one-inch-diameter anvil. This sets up a resonance. A microphone picks up this sound and the machine's

electronic system interprets the "message."

As the resounding coin moves ahead it passes a photoelectric cell which triggers a mechanism that kicks out the clads and allows the silver to go straight through to the container destined for the Melting Room. When first sacks received were emptied into the hopper, the split was about 70 per cent silver coins and 30 per cent clad. In recent weeks the average of silver has dropped to 35 per cent.

Operating one eight-hour shift a day, the sorting machines process about 300 bags of quarters. That's 1,200,000 quarters — \$300,000 worth — 18,000 pounds of 'em.

The Melting Room is a comparatively small, dingy workplace that has the look of a small mid-1900s silversmith shop.

Here, Robert L. (Bob) Folsom, 54, a Denver native, is foreman. He supervises 16 "melts" a day. Each melt consists of melting about 36,000 quarters — \$9,000 worth — to make eight bars. With the coinage silver bars selling for about \$2 an ounce, each melt will bring \$16,000 and produce a tidy profit.

Folsom has no qualms about destroying what his colleagues elsewhere in the Denver Mint took great pride in producing. "It's just material to us," he says. "I think silver is too valuable to put in coins."

The Melting Room crew draws quarters from what they call the gondola, a big iron chest that's kept well supplied and pours out the coins like a drunken slot machine. The quarters are unceremoniously dumped into a wide-mouthed crucible sitting in a high-frequency induction electric furnace.

It only takes 45 minutes to turn a batch of old quarters into a 1968 liquid. The men then scoop out the molten metal and pour it into the bank of eight molds. The silver hardens quickly but stays hot a long time. The bars are taken out with care and, after the melt number and year are stamped into the top of each one, they are stacked on a dolly and moved into a vault.

Folsom says he has frequently over the years melted down mutilated coins but never has he been a party to killing off a "species." When not making silver bars, his

continued



Garcia gingerly handles a hot silver bar he has just removed from a mold. The 70-pound bar will sell for about \$2 an ounce.



These are sacks of quarters that didn't make it to the melting furnace. They're clad coins for return to circulation.

Photography by George Crouler





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unit melts down "sweeps" — waste metal — from all over the Mint. He expects to set a record salvage recovery of 1.75 million ounces of various metals for the fiscal year ending this week.

Of the 3 million ounces of coinage silver melted down since March, about a third has been sold in auctions held by the General Services Administration in Washington. The sales — all to industrial consumers — are for delivery at the Denver Mint docks.

The decision to eliminate silver from dimes and quarters, and to melt down pre-1965 coins for their silver content, was forced by the

worldwide shortage of the precious metal. In the early 1960s use of silver for industrial purposes was exceeding total world production.

The U.S. Treasury Department in mid-June confirmed that it has a major hoard of unseparated dimes and quarters—3 billion dimes and 1.3 billion quarters, including those at the Denver Mint.

Sorting machines are operating also in Philadelphia, San Francisco and at several of the larger Federal Reserve Banks in Boston, Cleveland and Chicago. Melting of quarters is also going on in Philadelphia, New York and San Francisco.

It is expected to take about two

years to complete the separation of the coins. The decision to proceed with melting silver coins was made March 1 by the Joint Commission on the Coinage. The Treasury Department has invoked its authority to prohibit individuals from melting silver coins.

Eliminating silver dimes and quarters was the first major change in U.S. coinage since Congress established the first mint at Philadelphia in 1792. In fact, the first coins struck in the North American colonies were silver shillings, sixpences and threepences by two Boston silversmiths in a 30-year period starting 1652.

Now, 316 years later, there is only one U.S. coin being made with silver content and it is being made at the Denver Mint. That's the John F. Kennedy half dollar. But even this coin is now a clad product, cutting the total silver content from 90 per cent (before 1965) to 40 per cent (the rest is copper).

The changeover to clads forced the mint to contract with various manufacturers for the "strip" metals used to make the blanks which are stamped into coins. Dimes and quarters are made alike with outside layers of 75 per cent copper and 25 per cent nickel, and an inside layer of 100 per cent copper.

Half-dollar strip has outside layers of 80 per cent silver and 20 per cent copper, and an inside layer of 80 per cent copper and 20 per cent silver. The over-all total silver content is 40 per cent.

The mint makes its own five-cent piece material by mixing copper (75 per cent) and nickel (25 per cent) to produce a cupro-nickel. Casting and rolling the metal is done on the premises. Bronze strip is purchased for pennies at the present time but usually the Mint makes its own ingots for penny production. Lack of time and manpower is the reason.

Mrs. Rossmiller and her assistant, Charles M. Miller, 62, are fighting removal of all silver from U.S. coins. In this they are supported by Miss Eva Adams, Bureau of the Mint. "The United States must have at least one silver coin."

Miller, with 34 years' service in the bureau, is pessimistic about the future of silver coins, and he has no hope of silver ever returning to the dime and quarter. Silver is just too expensive.

For example, a silver quarter weighs .200937 troy ounce. If 90 per cent of that is silver and an ounce sells for \$2, the quarter has an intrinsic value of 36 cents. That's better than trading stamps.

Congress decreed that what this country needed was a good 25-cent quarter. The clads followed, and the days of the silver coin were numbered.

The melting-down process will continue for some time. Up to June 5 the Mint had gone through only 121,841,940 quarters, recovering 44,695,384 silver ones. The clads are returned to circulation. Some 30 million of the silver quarters are yet to be melted down.

Still to be separated are about 54,000 bags of quarters, or 219,799,576 coins. And then there are the 570,625,590 dimes.

In the long run, Mrs. Rossmiller might lose her fight for silver. But nobody — repeat, nobody — will ever beat her for pure, inexhaustible and detailed statistics!—Zeke Scher

++ +



Bob Folsom, center, Melting Room, admires handiwork with Supt. Marian Rossmiller and Asst. C.M. Miller.





# New "in the mood"



In the mood for something different? A change of pace? An elegant touch? Now

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*In trays to allow oven-browning or rising . . . the way these foods are at their best:*

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**Swanson Spinach Soufflé.** Tender-leaf spinach finely chopped and textured in an elegant sauce.

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**Swanson Cheese Soufflé.** Mellow Cheddar cheese, creamed and blended into a fluffy, tempting triumph.

**Swanson Potatoes Au Gratin.** Tender potatoes in a tangy sauce of aged Cheddar and Parmesan cheese.

**Swanson Scalloped Potatoes.** Thin, firm slices of tender potatoes delicately flavored in a white creamy sauce.

**Swanson Chicken and Noodles.** Generous chunks of white and dark meat, enriched egg noodles, cooked in a succulent sauce flecked with sweet red pepper.

*Individual servings in cooking pouches to seal in the appetizing flavor and aroma of each speciality:*

**Swanson Beef Stroganoff.** Tender strips of steak, pieces of plump mushrooms, in a classic sour cream sauce with Burgundy wine.

**Swanson Creamed Chipped Beef.** Lean slices of specially selected beef in a delicate cream sauce.

**Swanson Spaghetti with Meat Sauce.** Enriched spaghetti in an Italian-style beef and tomato sauce, flavored with Romano and Parmesan cheese.

**Swanson Chicken in White Wine Cream Sauce.** Pieces of tender white and dark meat in a delicious cream sauce with Sauterne wine.

**Swanson Beef Ragout.** Tender cubes of lean beef, potatoes, and vegetables in a hearty beef gravy.

Next time you're in the mood for something different, Trust Swanson!





# Coin Output Mark Set By Denver Mint in '69

The Denver Mint set a world record for production in 1969, according to Mrs. Betty Higby, mint superintendent.

With the end of Wednesday's coinage, Mrs. Higby said, the mint produced more than five billion coins in 1969. She said this total breaks all previous highs for any mint in the world.

Taking honors in the largest number of coins produced, Mrs. Higby said, was the penny. She said about four billion were

made in the 12-month period.

The second largest denomination was the dime with more than 500 million stamped. The nickel followed with a total of 202,807,500. Well over 114 million quarters were minted and put into circulation, Mrs. Higby said.

The Denver Mint, the only one producing half dollars, stamped almost 130 million of the coins in 1969, Mrs. Higby noted.

Along with the record-breaking production of domestic coins, she said, 83 million coins were made for foreign countries.

The superintendent said the record production wasn't by accident. "The goal was set several months ago, and it was reached because the employees at the mint are efficient, dedicated and loyal," she said.

Mint employees number 439. The coining division is on a three-shift, five-day-a-week basis.



# Mint's financial management criticized

*From the Washington Bureau of  
the Rocky Mountain News*

**WASHINGTON** — Sloppy financial management caused the Bureau of the Mint to understate by nearly 1,200 per cent the cost of the nation's 1967 coinage, the General Accounting Office (GAO) told Congress Tuesday.

The watchdog agency called for overhauling the bureau's financial operations and said a "more realistic" estimate of 1967 coin production costs was \$137.2 million, not the \$11.9 million reported by the bureau.

For example, GAO said the bureau reported

the cost of producing pennies at the Denver Mint to be 69 cents per 1,000. GAO said the actual cost was \$3.82. The discrepancy was even greater for half dollars—the bureau reported a cost of \$5.13 per 1,000 coins, GAO said the cost was \$234.37.

In addition, GA said costs at different mints varied. "For example," the report said, "the bureau reported that the unit cost for producing a 25-cent coin in Denver was 57 cents lower than in Philadelphia, but our determination of the unit costs showed that Denver's cost was 93 cents higher."

GAO blamed the difference in cost estimates on the bureau's failure to include the cost of metal, financed from the coinage metal fund, in

reports; failure to capitalize all property; failure to allocate depreciation to various operations and failure to include the cost of protection and "executive direction" as operating expenses.

In addition to recommending accounting and reporting procedure changes to supply more information for Congress, GAO also suggested new legislation to change the method of financing bureau operations.

The report said such legislation is needed to allow greater flexibility in adjusting coin production to meet unexpected changes in demand which deplete coin inventories. Bureau funds and the coin demand now must be estimated one year in advance.

# Denver Mint Breaks

COIN  
WORLD  
1-21-70

## U. S. Coinage Record

The director of the United States Mint, Mrs. Mary Brooks, announced from her Washington office the Denver Mint has topped all previous production records in the Mint's 177-year history to produce over five billion coins in 1969.

This qualified Mrs. Betty Higby, superintendent of the Denver Mint, as woman money-maker champion of the year!

The Denver Mint coin production in 1969 was enough to encircle the earth 2.42 times.

"We are particularly pleased the superintendent of the Denver Mint is a woman, appointed by President Nixon to the post," Mrs. Brooks said.

"Mrs. Higby has demonstrated highly capable leadership that has inspired this outstanding achievement. We are proud of all Mint employees who had made

1969 a truly memorable year for the Denver Mint," Mrs. Brooks said.

The Lincoln cent was the production leader at Denver with 4,002,832,200 struck during the 12-month period. Second was the dime with 563,323,870 struck, followed by the nickel, at 202,807,500 pieces.

A total of 114,372,300 quarters were made in Denver in 1969, and the Denver Mint, the only Mint producing half dollars in 1969, struck 129,881,800 of this denomination.

In addition to the record number of U.S. coins, totalling 5,013,217,370 the Denver Mint also produced 83-million coins for foreign governments.

The Denver Mint staff numbers 439 and the coining division is on a three-shift, five-day-a-week basis.





Denver Post Photo by Steve Larson

## Assayer Sworn In

Hildreth Frost Jr., left, is sworn in as the Denver Mint's assayer by Justice Donald E. Kelley of the Colorado Supreme Court. Hildreth, assistant professor at the Colorado School of Mines in Golden, was appointed by President Nixon. He will direct quality control program for foreign and domestic coins made at the Denver Mint and will supervise analyses of refined metals purchased for coinage, special metal and counterfeit coin analyses.



Denver Post Photo by Steve Larson

## Denver Mint Wins Award

Mrs. Mary T. Brooks, left, of Washington, D.C., director of the U.S. Mint, Monday presented Mrs. Betty Higby, superintendent of the Denver Mint, with an honor award for surpassing in 1969 all previous yearly production records in the 177-year history of U.S. mints. The Denver unit produced 5,013,217,370 coins worth \$200,034,984. The Denver mint made 4 billion pennies, 203 million nickels, 563 million dimes, 114 million quarters and 130 million half-dollars. Dollars are no longer minted.





A quartet of approving ladies surround the Denver Mint's new assayer, Hildreth Frost Jr. From left, Mrs. Frost, Mrs. Mary T. Brooks, director of the Mint; Mrs. John Love, wife of the governor of Colorado, and Mrs. Betty Higby, Denver Mint Superintendent. (A George Crouter photo)

# Mint Director Presents Award To Denver Staff

Denver Mint employees today were basking in the glow of a special honor award which they received on Monday, February 2, for breaking all previous Mint coinage production records in 1969.

Director of the Mint Mary T. Brooks traveled from her Washington office to Denver to make the presentation.

The honor award read: "In recognition and appreciation of their special achievement in 1969 of surpassing all previous coin production records in the Mint's 177-year history."

At the 2:30 p.m. presentation to Denver Mint Superintendent Betty Higby, Mrs. Brooks said:

"I am proud of all Mint employees who have made 1969 a truly memorable year for the Denver Mint. This outstanding coin production record contributed greatly in making it possible for the Bureau of the Mint to meet the ever-increasing demand for coins for our continually growing economy."

Mrs. Brooks told the 439 Denver Mint employees she was particularly pleased because Mrs. Betty Higby, appointed by President Nixon, has demonstrated "highly capable leadership that inspired this outstanding achievement."

See Page 49 for related photos.

The Denver Mint produced in 1969 a staggering total of 4,002,832,200 cents; 202,807,500 nickels; 563,323,870 dimes; 114,372,000 quarters and 129,881,800 half dollars for a total of 5,013,217,370 coins.

"Enough coins to circle the earth 2.42 times," Mrs. Brooks said.

February 2 was important to the Denver Mint for another reason — Hildreth Frost Jr., assistant professor at Colorado School of Mines, a Nixon appointee, was sworn in at 3 p.m. as assayer of the Denver Mint.

Justice of the Colorado Supreme Court, Donald E. Kelley,

delivered the oath of office in the office of Superintendent Higby.

Mint Director Mary T. Brooks officiated at the swearing-in, assisted by Mrs. Higby. Also attending was Mrs. Love, wife of Governor of Colorado, John A. Love, and other high government and state officials.

As assayer, Frost will direct the quality control program for domestic and foreign coins manufactured in the Denver Mint. He will supervise the

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Coin World  
Feb. 18, 1970



# *Denver Mint Gets Honor, New*



Sharing in Honor Award ceremonies at the Denver Mint are a trio of Mint executives listening intently as Mrs. Mary T. Brooks reads the citation and delivers remarks. From left, Charles

Miller, deputy superintendent of the Denver Mint; Harry Lawrence, superintendent of the coining division; Mrs. Betty Higby, superintendent of the Mint, and Mrs. Brooks.

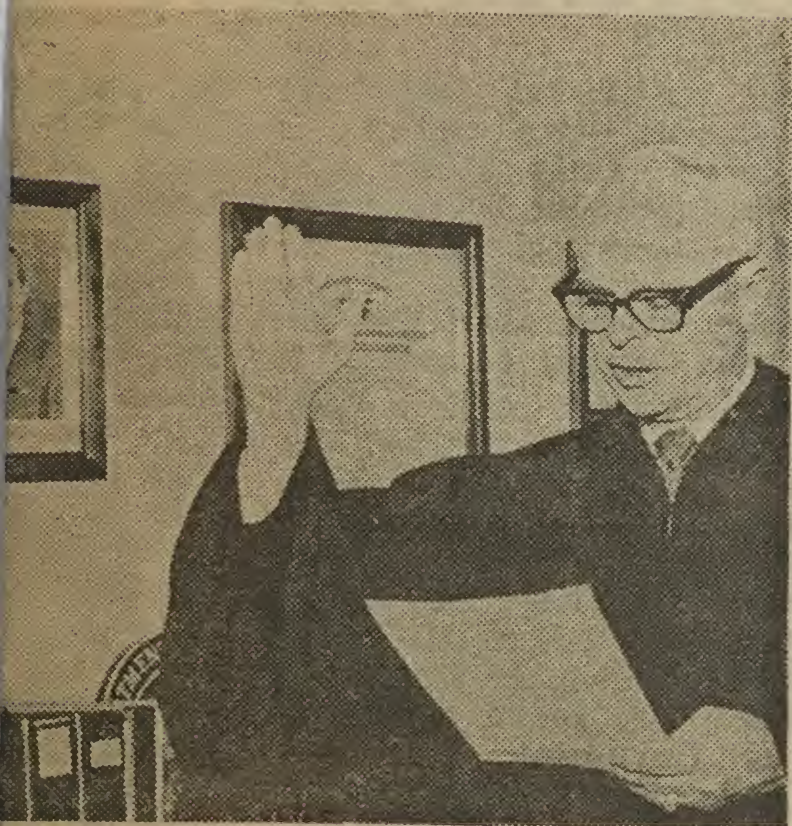


Hildreth Frost Jr., Justice of the Denver Mint by Justice Kelly. Ceremonies were

*Coin World*  
Feb. 18, 1970



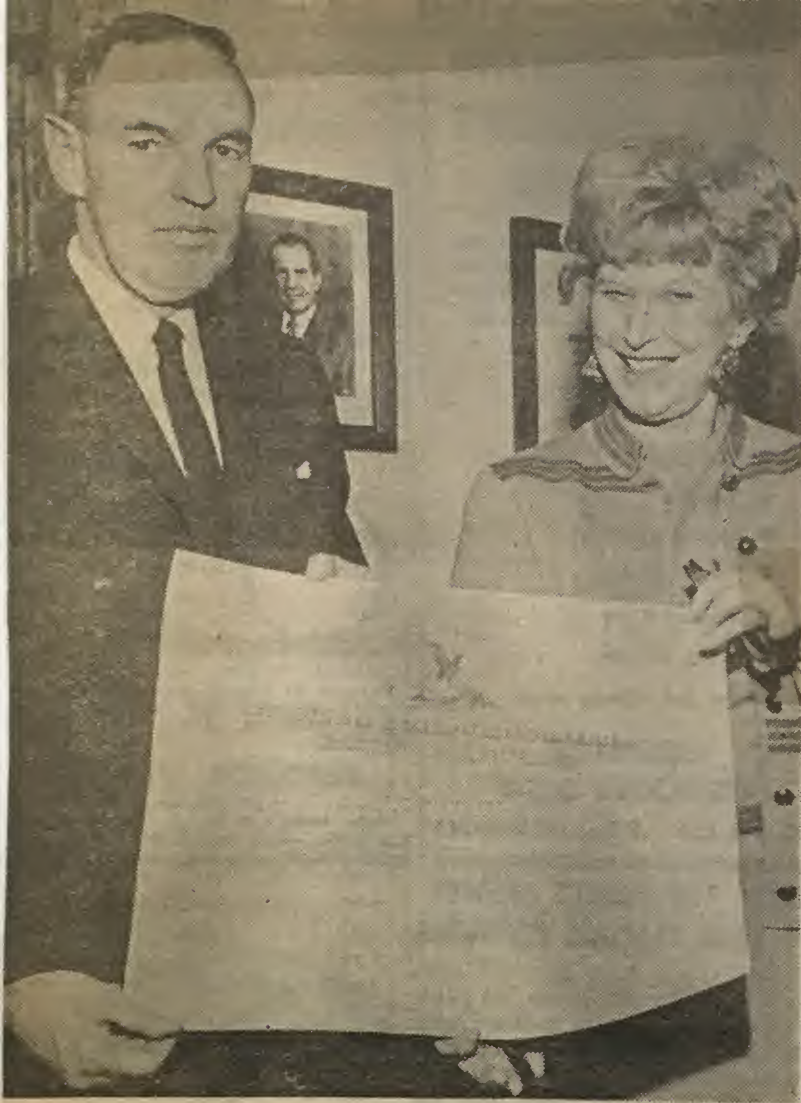
# *w Assayer*



was sworn in February 2 as assayer of the  
ice of the Colorado Supreme Court, Donald E.  
ere held at the Denver Mint.



Coin WORLD  
Feb. 18, 1970



Hildreth Frost Jr., new assayer of the Denver Mint, joins a long line of gentlemen down through Mint history, highly important to coinage and coinage operations. Here he displays his commission. Frost was appointed to the post by President Richard M. Nixon.



The smiles of Mrs. Brooks (left) and Mrs. Higby reflect the pleasure and pride of the Bureau of the Mint and the Denver Mint employees as they receive an Honor Award for surpassing all previous coin production records in the Mint's history — 177 years of coining. The Denver Mint made enough coins last year to circle the earth 2.42 times — over five billion pieces. (Photos by George Crouter).



# 'Eisenhower dollar' approved

*From the Washington Bureau  
of the Rocky Mountain News*

The Treasury will mint 150 million Eisenhower silver dollars containing 40 per cent silver under terms of a compromise bill agreed upon Wednesday, Sen. Peter H. Dominick, R-Colo., announced.

The agreement represents a personal victory for Dominick, who reportedly convinced the administration, which originally wanted silverless coins, to accept a limited amount of dollars containing silver.

Final details were hammered out during a meeting between Dominick, Rep. James A. McClure, R-Idaho, and Rep. Sylvio O. Conte, R-Mass.

The senator said he hopes the Denver Mint will produce premium-priced, uncirculated proof sets of the 40 per cent silver dollars which are expected to be sold to collectors only.

In addition, Eisenhower dollars composed of

75 per cent copper and 25 per cent nickel will be coined for general circulation.

Under the agreement, the Treasury will continue to sell 1.5 million ounces of silver weekly through Nov. 10 to maintain an orderly transition out of the silver market.

Silver for the coins will come from the Office of Emergency Planning, which will transfer 25.5 million ounces of surplus silver to the Mint. Production is expected to start about July 1.

Dominick called the coin "an appropriate honor to our 34th President, Dwight David Eisenhower," and added, "This coin will be treasured by many Americans."

The compromise bill is expected to gain routine approval in both House and Senate. Last year the Senate approved the minting of dollars containing silver, but the House voted to mint only cupro-nickel dollars.



# Ring in the new silver dollars

By PASQUALE MARRANZINO

THE DIE IS CAST—so to speak—at the U.S. Mint and the Denver branch could be pounding out those new Eisenhower silver dollars by the time the tourist flood hits in June.

I was talking to our neighbors about Congressional approval—preliminary but considered to be a fait accompli—of the Eisenhower dollars. When they get rolling from the punch presses they will be the first cartwheels to be produced since the deep depression days of 1935.

But they were honest silver dollars in those days—worth the amount of silver in them, which came out at a dollar. But inflation since World War II has eaten holes in dollars—silver and paper—so they are not worth what they were intended to be worth.

\* \* \*

THE OLD SILVER dollars held .857-ounce (Troy) of silver. At today's increased silver prices—\$1.90 an ounce—the old dollars could be

melted down and the silver sold for \$1.46 cents. That's what prompted the Treasury a few years back to begin production of the sandwich coin which is in currency today—something like a bra, behind which is not entirely the real thing.

The Mint people anticipated that Congress would respond to the clamor of people—mostly us cowboys in the West for the return of the jingle-jangle of the old dollar. It won't be the same true jingle-jangle, but it will be symbolic and Las Vegas and other gambling towns will be happier.

The Philadelphia Mint has the dollar dies already made and all that is required is that they be affixed to the punch presses and we will be back in the dollar business.

THE "PROOF QUALITY" coins—those that are closest to perfection and collector's items—are made exclusively at the San Francisco Mint. So San Francisco will get a shot at putting out the noncirculated, collector's items—possibly at \$10 a shot so as to make a profit. How many of them will be made is a question. They will be 40 per cent silver—an alloy of 80 per cent outside and 20 per cent inside—40 per cent in all.

Some 150 million other dollars will be shy of silver—mostly copper and nickel—with nickel outside and pure copper inside.

It will be these silver-shy dollars that are punched out across the street from us. They are harder to make than the billions of quarters, dimes, nickels and pennies being turned out each year here.

\* \* \*

THE PUNCH CAN handle only one dollar at a time while dimes, pennies and nickels go at four each stroke. Mint officials expect that the minting of the new dollars will cut down the minting of lesser coins—but the country apparently has enough of them for the nonce and production of 150 million dollars won't take long. The Denver Mint produced more than five billion coins of all denominations in 1969—130 million Kennedy half dollars.

Mint officials say "half dollars follow in the shadow" of dollars. That is, dollar change demands more half dollars. Thus, they expect that half-dollar production in Denver will have to be begun anew. We haven't punched a new 50-cent piece here since the new year began.

Selling premium coins isn't a new mint venture. You can buy special mint sets of uncirculated coins—half, quarter, dime, nickel and penny—for \$4, proof sets for \$5, and a plain, uncirculated set for \$2.50—all coins minted in 1965-66.

The new dollar job will not employ more men since the Mint budget fixes the Denver payroll at 470 people.



Marranzino



# Denver mint to produce 'like dollars'

By DAN BELL

*Rocky Mountain News*

*Washington Correspondent*

**WASHINGTON, D.C. —**

The Denver Mint will produce a portion of the 200 million new cupro-nickel Eisenhower dollars to be minted annually, Sen. Peter H. Dominick, R-Colo., announced Thursday.

The new coin, which will be placed in mass circulation, will be produced for an indefinite period under a compromise plan revealed last week.

The measure, originally sponsored by Dominick, provides for the minting of 150 million Eisenhower dollars containing 40 per cent silver. It is expected to gain final Congressional approval before the Easter recess.

Dominick said that the San Francisco Mint is expected to produce the dollars containing silver with the mints in Denver and Philadelphia dividing the production of the dollars made of 75 per cent nickel and 25 per cent copper.

## *Ready for issue*

He added that it is hoped the silver dollars "could be minted and ready for issue by Oct. 14, which is the late president's birthday."

He said that a procedure would be established to make it possible for all who wish to buy the silver "keepsake" coin to have the opportunity to do so.

According to tentative plans, 150 million uncirculated silver dollars will be minted at a rate of between 30 and 40 million per year.

They will be packaged in an appropriate container and sold for between \$3 and \$4 each. Individuals will be able to place one order for either one, two or five coins.

## *'Proof' dollars*

In addition, 20 million "proof" silver dollars will be minted at a rate of about five million per





**John F. Brekle, officer in charge, San Francisco Assay Office, receives the Bureau of the Mint's honor award in behalf of the 470 employees of the minting facility. Mrs. Mary T. Brooks, Mint director made the presentation for the employees' record handling of 1970 Proof coin orders on Monday, March 23. A press conference and photographers' tour was also arranged by Mrs. Brooks in connection with the red letter day at the San Francisco facility.**

## MRS. HIGBY

# Chances 'Good' for New Mint

By KEN PEARCE  
Denver Post Staff Writer

Mrs. Betty Higby, superintendent of the Denver Mint, believes Denver should have a new mint and thinks chances of getting one are good.

But she also believes it would take seven to eight years before the money for a new plant can be appropriated and a new building is ready for production.

What's wrong with the present plant, a Denver landmark for well over a half a century?

The plant opened at its site at 320 W. Colfax Ave. in 1904 and was operated as an assay office until 1906 when it began coinage operations.

### FACILITIES 'ARCHAIC'

Today, Mrs. Higby says, the facilities are pretty archaic. The

roof leaks, there are ventilation problems and additional warehouse space is needed. "I doubt if we could put another building on this spot," Mrs. Higby says.

There's inadequate parking, and armored trucks and large semis hauling coinage have difficulty maneuvering in the congested area, she says.

The machinery, she adds, isn't set up for assembly line production.

And during the summer, there are complaints from the courts in the City and County Building across the street that they can't conduct their business because of the noise. "We've lined buckets with rubber material to try to cut down on the noise," Mrs. Higby said.

She also notes that the present

Mint has been expanded three times—in 1936, 1946 and 1965. She doesn't think it would be practical to spend the money to upgrade it again.

The Mint started with three coin presses and now has 56, "so you can see we've used every available space," Mrs. Higby said. Hallways, she added, are being used for office space.

Mrs. Higby believes a new mint should be located near a railroad spur on a 10- to 15-acre site somewhere in Denver, and adds that "we certainly should be laid out as an industrial plant. After all, that's what we are."

All this doesn't mean the Denver Mint isn't meeting its demands.

"We are meeting our require-

ments because the employees are efficient and dedicated," Mrs. Higby said, pointing out that the Denver Mint does between 70 and 75 per cent of the coinage in the country.

She noted that the Denver Mint last year produced more than five billion coins, setting a world record for production.



# Denver mint chief wants new facility



ROCKY MOUNTAIN NEWS PHOTO BY HOWARD BROCK

Mrs. Betty Higby, supervisor of the Denver mint, thinks the plant should move from downtown Denver to larger site.

By CECIL JONES

Rocky Mountain News Writer

The supervisor of the Denver mint thinks if the government is going to build a new mint the place to start is here.

She has the personnel and know-how right here in Denver to continue minting the major part of the nation's coinage. Mrs. Betty Higby said Thursday. Her remarks were in response to rumblings out of Washington, D.C., that the House Appropriations Committee was discussing construction of a new mint on the West Coast.

Statistically the mint shows an impressive record. Up to 1,000 tourists file through the production facilities daily, and in August last year 27,000 persons toured the mint. Even with all the goggle-eyed spectators the mint manages to stamp out coins at the rate of 20 million to 22 million a day.

Perhaps it's the beautiful music of all those coins clicking off the presses that prompted Mayor McNichols to say he rather hopes the mint stays where it is.

## 'Hear clinking'

"I sort of like to hear the clinking of the money," the mayor said.

Perhaps the saddest statistic of all to Mrs. Higby is that the mint building dates back to 1904. This not only makes it the oldest of the three mint buildings in the country, but older than the neighboring City and County Building (1932) and even the Capitol Building (1908).

The original Denver mint, once the Clark and Gruber Co.

Moving to W. Colfax Avenue meant more room for the biggest coin production facility west of Philadelphia. Great production needs—the mint started with three coin presses and now has 56—forced additions to the original structure in 1936, 1946 and 1965.

Now the mint is firmly ensconced in downtown Denver, and has nowhere to expand. The whole operation is simply "archaic," Mrs. Higby says.

## The roof leaks

The roof leaks and the place suffers from bad ventilation. The building is so cramped, hallways have been carved up for office space. Parking is inadequate and semitrailers often block Delaware Street waiting to get into the storage yard.

Moreover, Mrs. Higby acknowledged the mint is guilty of both "visual and noise pollution" — the latter sin once causing a judge to complain he couldn't hold court in the City and County Building because of the racket from across the street.

Even apart from its pedestrian architecture, the mint has become an eyesore for its overstuffed storage yard south of the building. Lack of available storage space has meant stacking cartons of materials in the open yard, which now resembles the supply dump of some manufacturing giant. The whole mess is visible through an unattractive chain-link fence.

## More up to date

The Denver mint counterparts are more up to date. Philadelphia began operation in its new building last August. The present San Francisco mint building was completed in 1937.

Despite all this, the mint here manages to produce 70 to 75 per cent of all the coinage minted in this country while maintaining a smaller staff—440 employees—than the other mints. Last year the mint set a world record for production by stamping out 5 billion coins in one year. In addition the mint produced coins for several foreign countries.

Even more coinage will be required in coming years, and

Mrs. Higby doesn't feel the answer to that need lies in building another mint on the West Coast. She feels the an-

swer is building a new facility here.

U.S. mint director Mary Brooks apparently agrees. She has reportedly told the House Appropriations Committee the Denver mint should precede other priorities.

"What I would like to see," Mrs. Higby muses, "is a 10 to 15

acre site in Denver County that is near a railroad spur and convenient to tourists. It would be laid out like an industrial plant, because after all, that's what we are."

Meanwhile, Mrs. Higby says, "We're just wheeling and shov-

(Concluded on Page 33)

Cont on next page

# Denver mint director wants new facility

(Continued from Page 30)

ing and pushing things around here."

The mint business, which has never suffered for lack of adequate funds, can be rather lucrative to the government.

Some money is made by melting down old coins once made with real silver that are returned to the mint by banks. The silver bars are sold to electronics and photography concerns at New York auctions.

Another source of revenue to the mint is sales to coin collectors. Income from a new Eisenhower silver dollar is expected to hit \$368 million for the "proof" (highly polished and containing its real value in silver) and "uncirculated" (proof-type but not as carefully polished) coins to be manufactured in the San Francisco mint. Denver will mint the cupro-nickel versions for public circulation.

What really makes mints money-makers, of course, is the "seigniorage" (difference between face value of a coin and the actual cost of its minting) the mint earns for each coin it sells through Federal Reserve banks. Like other manufacturers of goods, the government is in the business of producing cheaply what it can sell dear. Since it has a monopoly, nobody complains.

Actual seigniorage figures weren't made available but the profit margin probably is nothing to sniff at.

"It's pretty good, that's all I can tell you," Mrs. Higby beamed, then added pensively, "With a few years seigniorage we could even build a new mint."



# He's antidisestablish-mint-arian

By PASQUALE MARRANZINO

THE SPORADIC EFFUSIONS from the Potomac by congressmen wanting to replace the U.S. Mint of Denver in their back yard can be handled sensibly as they have been in the past by Colorado's delegation.

And they can do without help of the Mint's director, Mrs. Betty Higby, who is newly minted as an executive and not experienced enough to be making statements for the record. Mrs.

Higby is one of the last vestiges of the political spoils system—stamped by proclamation of any new administration in Washington as a reward for political hanging-on, favor, etc.

Each change of presidential party brings us a new director and since Ike Eisenhower they have been women of sound political faith. Some of them have been quiet and have left the driving to the experienced and qualified hands.

\* \* \*

BEING PROOF-NEW on the job, Mrs. Higby got over excited by rumors from Washington that the House Appropriations Committee is discussing building a new Mint on the West Coast. We have heard it before.

The facts on operations of the Denver Mint are impressive—even for provincialism among congressmen. They have been impressive even before Mrs. Higby became titular head of our neighbor's operations across the street.

The regular help last year turned out more than five billion coins—an amazing record of production—three out of four coins

minted in the troika of Mints Uncle Sam uses—the others at Philadelphia and San Francisco.

\* \* \*

THE PHILADELPHIA MINT is big and new and costly and can't approach our neighbor's production. San Francisco's Mint is small potatoes.

What disturbs me is that Mrs. Higby told our paper she is unhappy because our Mint is old. Some parts of it date back to 1904—but that's not old. We have a mania for destruction of buildings that manage to live out one generation.

True it is overcrowded because of its massive assignment in production. And some of the offices for executives aren't as spacious and elegant as Croesus would have liked. "Archaic" is the word Mrs. Higby used—a bad choice.

\* \* \*

SHE SAYS IT CONTRIBUTES to noise and to pollution—both factors which are news to us who have been neighbors for 18 years. She said the stamping machines disturb people at City Hall—a suggestion promptly dismissed by Mayor McNichols, who doesn't want the Mint moved for many reasons including the delightful "sound of clinking money."

Mrs. Higby's dream is to move it out to some expansive and expensive lot out of the downtown area—10 to 15 acres is her suggestion.

The Mint is the biggest downtown attraction for tourists and school children—averaging attendance of 1,000 a day and on some summer days queued up all around the block.

It fits well into the Civic Center complex—dominated by governmental buildings and the logical place to look for a Mint.

Let's not have Mrs. Higby give us any wooden nickel by getting a hearing about moving the Mint.



Marranzino

## ***Mint Hand Accused Of Stealing \$1.50***

DENVER (AP)—A U.S. Mint employe was indicted Wednesday by a federal grand jury here on charges he embezzled \$1.50 from the mint March 19.

Robert E. Carroll of Northglenn, employed in the mint's weight section, was accused of taking six uncirculated 1970 quarters.

Conviction on embezzlement of metals carries a maximum sentence of 10 years in prison or \$10,000 fine, or both.



# Mint Director Favors New Denver Facility

The Denver Mint, recently lauded by Mint director Mary T. Brooks for its record production for 1969, was characterized as having "Fine People" who should not be moved in testimony where she gave to the House appropriations subcommittee considering the Treasury Department budget, recently.

Denver's citizens, she said, are very proud of the Mint, "but they object to the noise and the congestion and the sight of the yard where we store our

metals. City Hall, across the street, is objecting to all the noise and gases that come out of the vents . . ."

Her recommendation is for a new facility to replace the 66-year-old Mint, now the oldest facility of its kind still operating in the U.S.

Responding to a suggestion of Rep. Silvio O. Conte (R-Mass.) that a new Mint be opened somewhere on the West coast, Mrs. Brooks was adamant about keeping the facility in Denver,

(Continued on Page 3)

COIN WORLD, Wednesday, April 29, 1970

## New Denver Facility...

### FROM PAGE 1

where many trained people are available who "have grown up in Mint service."

"I would be afraid to try to set up a new plant in a new location in another city," she said.

Conte said he did not wish the Denver Mint to be done away with. "I'm saying keep the Den-

ver Mint and look into the to require two years. possibilities of constructing a new Mint."

Coinage experts in Washington anticipate that with the nation's minting facilities running at capacity, which they are expected to do in 1971, their production will still fall 3.5 billion coins short of the nation's needs in 1980.

Favoring the development of a new facility at Denver, which is what Mrs. Brooks seeks, are the quality of its work force, nearness to transportation and the efficiency of production at the current Denver Mint.

The supervisor of the Denver Mint, Mrs. Betty Higby, echoed the remarks of her boss, when rumblings reached that city, that discussions were under way in Washington about constructing a new Mint on the West Coast.

"We have the personnel and know-how right here in Denver" to continue minting the major part of the nation's coinage, Mrs. Higby said.

She quoted these statistics: Up to 1,000 persons tour the Mint daily, and in August, 1969, 27,000 persons toured the Mint. This minor distraction notwithstanding, coin production was at the rate of 20 million to 22,000 coins a day.

She admits certain shortcomings in the present facility.

Stating her personal preferences, she said that she would like to see the Mint located in a 10 to 15-acre site somewhere in Denver County.



Mary Thomas Brooks Idaho-born and bred

# Mint chief a ranch cook

By WAUHILLAU LA HAY  
Scripps-Howard Staff Writer

WASHINGTON—Ten ranch hands in the Smoky Mountains of Idaho can brag that the director of the U.S. Mint used to be their cook.

Mint Director Mary Thomas Brooks, daughter and widow of U.S. senators, is a rancher



LaHay

born and bred. She can stand city life only so long — then it's back to the home of the Flat Top Sheep Co., the Dot-Bar-Dot Ranch near Sun Valley, Idaho, for mountain air, horseback riding, cooking on a coal range.

Shortly before President Nixon picked her for the U.S. Mint, she was home on a visit when the cook quit and her son, John Thomas Peavey, who manages the ranch, asked her to help out.

So svelte, blonde Mrs. Brooks was serving flapjacks, bacon, eggs and gallons of coffee at 7 a.m., an enormous dinner at noon and a hefty meal at night for 10 hungry men. She recalls:

**"IT WAS FUN** and all sorts of funny things happened. One day I made turkey soup for dinner so thick you could walk on it. I served it proudly and then I heard one of the hands whisper, 'Soup at noon! Pass the peanut butter.' So I knew I'd goofed.

"The soup went to the chickens and thereafter it was meat, potatoes and beans, pies and custards. Those men are big on desserts."

Mary's first husband, Arthur Peavey Jr., was a lawyer and rancher. They had two children, but he was killed in a hunting accident and she turned to running the ranch with its 7,000 sheep and huge herd of cattle.

But politics competed with ranching for her attentions. Her father, John Thomas, was in the U.S. Senate and on a Washington visit she met Sen. C. Wayland "Curly" Brooks, the Illinois Republican, a close friend of her father's. And then her father died.

"I guess I'm the only woman who ever stepped into my



Mary Thomas Brooks . . . takes city life only so long.

mother's spot as a senator's wife," she recalls. "My dad died about six months before Curly and I were married. All the Senate wives thought they'd played cupid."

**SHE MARRIED** Brooks in 1946 and, while Chicago was his home, they spent all their spare time in Idaho. When he died in 1957, she took her husband's place on the Republican National Committee and "worked myself to a frazzle."

"My friends kept bugging me to run for the State Senate.

They said since I had the biggest ranch in Blaine County, which was Democratic, I'd have a good fight," she says. "It was a challenge and that's for me, so I went to work. I didn't miss a side road and I wore my shoes clear out—the soles were flapping."

The shoes became a symbol of success, and after her election she had them resoled and wore them for two more successful campaigns.

As a state senator she was required to spend 60 days every other year at her duties. This left plenty of free time to become assistant chairman of the Republican National Committee. When she was named director of the Mint, she resigned her Idaho Senate seat and her son was named to replace her.

**MRS. BROOKS** recently went with Mrs. Winthrop Rockefeller and a group from the National Mental Health Organization to Europe, where

she was thrilled by a silver mine archeologists were uncovering near Athens.

She discovered the Greeks sometime between 600 B.C. and 100 A.D. knew how to refine silver ore with running water. "Think of all that technical knowledge hundreds of years ago," she marvels.

"Since I'm so fascinated with the history of coinage, I thought it a wonderful privilege to see where the silver had come from for the Greek coins minted before the birth of Christ."

Another highlight of the trip was an audience with Pope Paul VI.

"His Holiness said to me, 'In your country, you are the treasurer.' I explained that I just made money as director of the Mint. His eyes twinkled and he said, 'You must be a very rich woman.'"

"I told him I couldn't keep any of it because it belonged to the taxpayers," she says.





# Medallic Art Firm Elects Eva Adams To Director Post

Miss Eva Adams, who was appointed by Presidents Kennedy and Johnson for two terms as 29th director of the United States Mint, was named a director of the Medallic Art Co. of New York City on June 22.

Miss Adams will be directly involved in a number of special projects, according to an announcement by William T. Louth, president of the 70-year old medal manufacturing firm. These projects include increasing the use of anniversary medals by prominent American cities and states, already a large part of the company's fine art medal business.

Also, Miss Adams will be available, particularly in the Washington, D. C. area where she maintains her office, for consultation with government agencies, associations and business firms. In this capacity, she will be of benefit for the various medallic programs planned for the coming Bicentennial of American Independence in 1976.

"I am pleased and honored to announce the election of Miss Eva Adams to the board of directors of Medallic Art Company effective today," Louth said.

"Miss Adams is well known, highly regarded in the fields of government and business, and is held in particular affection by the many collectors and numismatists throughout the country. It is in this particular area we feel she can be of service to our company.

"As all collectors know, there has been a great proliferation of medallic pieces recently. It is in the interest of maintaining the highest standards of quality and artistic effort, and to insure that Medallic Art Company issues only those pieces which are worthy of our distinguished heritage, that we have asked Miss Adams to review and critically comment on each issue.

"Miss Adams will be available for advice and consultation for any organization wishing to issue medallic pieces in keeping with our high standards of quality."



Former Mint director Eva B. Adams, named a director of the Medallic Art Co. of New York City.

In making the announcement, Louth said:

"No one person has been closer to America's coins and medals during the past decade than this charming lady from Washington, D. C. During her tenure as the second lady director of the United States Mint Bureau, she accomplished gigantic tasks. She was responsible for alleviating a stringent and nationwide coin shortage, and also was responsible for finding an adequate silver substitute in clad composition.

"But perhaps her greatest accomplishment was her leadership in the construction of the new Mint in Philadelphia, a modern plant which eventually will be capable of producing 300 coins a second, 180 million a week, eight billion a year.

"We also feel fortunate to obtain Miss Adams' technical advice and assistance. Medallic Art Company is planning to break ground in the near future on a new modern facility, which will be the most up-to-date manufacturing plant in the world for the production of high relief medals.

"Miss Adams will also be available, particularly in the

## Miss Adams...

### FROM PAGE 1

Washington area, to consult with government agencies, associations and business firms which are interested in the sculpture work for which we are so well known. We feel Miss Adams will also be a great benefit in connection with the various medallic programs that will be instituted on the occasion of this country's bicentennial.

"To say that we are delighted with this association is an understatement."

The announcement further stated Miss Adams will take an active part in the numismatic activities of the company and will aid in planning and developing medallic items of a commemorative nature, primarily for numismatic, civic and governmental organizations.

As stated in the announcement these activities were specified by Louth to include consultation on Presidential inaugural medals (the company has produced the official medal for the last five Presidential inaugurations; medals for the executive branch of government, for official receptions and visiting dignitaries, for campaigns, dedications, world's fairs and expositions.

At present Miss Adams is a consultant to the chairman of the board of Mutual of Omaha, and a director of its subsidiary, Tele-Trip Inc.

Other directors of the Medallic Art Company in addition to Louth are: Frances K. Trees, vice president and treasurer; Julius Louth, vice president and art director; Robert S. Ashby, attorney; Robert H. Platt, president of Magnavox Corp., and Homer Lathrop, senior vice president of First National City Bank.

Coin World - July 8, 1970

(Continued on Page 3)



# Mint director lives with antiques

By WAUHILLAU LA HAY  
Scripps-Howard Staff Writer

WASHINGTON — Mint Director Mary Books transacts her business in an imposing corner in the U.S. Treasury Building amid about \$75,000 worth of antique furniture and memorabilia which have transformed the office into a working museum.

Mrs. Brooks, who lives antiques, last year saw a picture taken in about 1874 on the office of Gen. O. H. LaGrange, then director of the San Francisco Mint. She immediately started searching for the mahogany and walnut furniture shown in the picture.

She eventually found it—stored in Philadelphia. But most of the pieces were badly battered, their leather cracked and hog-bristle padding poking out through upholstery.

Mrs. Brooks got special permission from the National Park Service, which took charge of the San Francisco Mint after it was declared a national landmark, to have the furniture restored by a Maryland craftsman.

The bureau of the mint paid the \$5,749.50 restoration costs, and the furniture was installed last week in Mrs. Brooks' office. She has since been holding previews, with First Lady Pat Nixon and her daughter, Julie Eisenhower, as the first guests.

MRS. BROOKS POINTS out that since the San Francisco Mint was the only downtown building not destroyed in the 1906 earthquake, her furniture has gone through a lot—including a trip around Cape Horn when it was shipped from New York to the West Coast.

The major pieces from the old mint have been appraised at \$38,000. They include two Victorian half-back settees, four side chairs, a nine-

drawer mahogany desk with veneered inlays, three upholstered arm chairs, a marble-top washstand and a banjo-type wall clock.

Some of the furniture has unique carving. The side chairs have overlapping initials "U.S." which form dollar signs. The settees and arm chairs have carved U.S. shields.

Unappraised, but conceded to double the value of the collection, are such items as a nine-globe brass chandelier, a brass student desk lamp, a bronze French clock, huge medal and coin display cases and a brass binocular microscope for detecting counterfeit coins.

ANOTHER NEW acquisition is a "gold box" from Fort Knox. It contains canvas bags for storing "double eagles"—\$20 gold pieces. The box has a padlock which reads 162, having only been unlocked that many times.

Mrs. Brooks has had the walls painted a delicate green and the draperies are in a slightly deeper shade. The rug is red, which shows off the deep patina of the mahogany and walnut pieces. Her desk is backed by a high medal display cabinet which shows presidential, army, navy and other special medals cast by the government.

The only modern notes in the office are pictures of the mint director's grandchildren and pale green telephones.

"It's taken me well over a year to do it, but it's worth it," Mrs. Brooks said. "The only thing is, when antique dealers and early Americana collectors hear what we've got in this office, how will I get any work done?"

The National Park Service still owns the furniture and will ask for it back if the San Francisco Mint is preserved for public use. San Franciscans are hassling over the old building. Some want it razed and others restored as a museum.



La Hay



# Mary T. Brooks Furnishes Mint Office With Historic San Francisco Antiques

The San Francisco earthquake in April, 1906, and the subsequent fire and looting of the city, left part of America's heritage almost intact; time, itself, and disuse caused more damage to historical Mint furnishings than did the San Francisco catastrophe.

The furnishings, a collection of Victorian pieces on loan to the Treasury Department from the National Park Service, have been restored, and now are in use in the office of Mary T. Brooks, Director of the U. S. Mint.

Mrs. Brooks discovered the broken discards from a more elaborate past soon after she took office in September of 1969.

The early American-made pieces were crafted during the mid-1800's by W. & J. Sloan in New York, and shipped by steamer around the treacherous waters of the Horn destined for the office of the Superintendent of the new United States Mint in San Francisco, which opened in 1874.

The decayed but stout furnishings were in the Philadelphia Mint, where they had been sent for restoration and exhibit.

Her office needed redecorating, and sensing that she could bring some of the history of the United States Mint to the refurbishing, Mrs. Brooks has had some of the antique pieces

restored. The work has now been completed.

Enhancing the authenticity of the Victorian decor, and resurrected from the Mint Laboratory, are such precision instruments of yesteryear as a brass microscope and gold-plated balance used for weighing precious metals; a brass spittoon, and a wooden "gold box" that has seen service in the transportation of bullion through the U.S. mail.

A wall-length mirror, framed in walnut, blankets the space between the windows looking out to bustling Pennsylvania avenue. Its reach spans from the ceiling to a marble-topped Gothic revival Pier table, about 1840, on loan from Dr. Richard Howland of the Smithsonian Institution.

Two Victorian half-back settees, covered in parchment matelasse, flank a round marble top table supported by a mahogany base with four carved Indian heads.

Arm chairs upholstered in red-striped velvet, and tapestry covered straight backs, complete the cozy seating arrangements in Mrs. Brooks' office.

Visitors to the Treasury Department can make arrangements to see the Mint Director's office and its Victorian furnishings by calling the Director's office.



Mary Brooks, shown seated at her now-restored desk; the same one in the picture with General La Grange. Fanciful leaf carving outline eight of

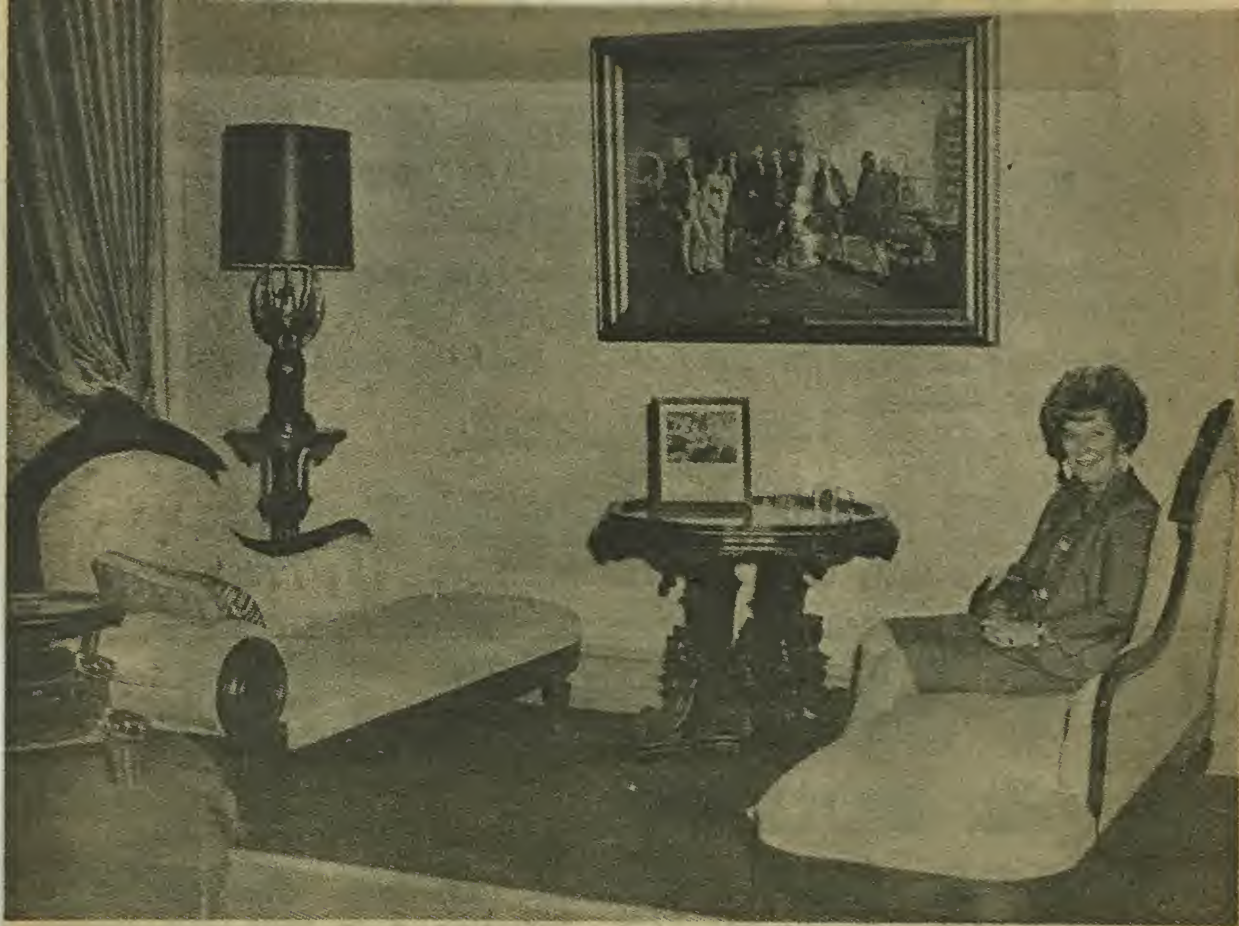
the handles of the nine-drawer massive mahogany desk; frame of the desk is made of solid mahogany two by fours.



General O. H. La Grange, Superintendent of the U.S. Mint at San Francisco, shown seated at the

elaborate mahogany desk, about 1874. Veneer inlay is a feature of each panel.





## *Mint Director Restores Antiques*

Mary T. Brooks, Director of the U.S. Mint, shown seated on a restored Victorian half-back settee, now in her office in the Treasury building in Washington, D.C. The painting on the wall is a 1914 oil tableau of the ceremony of the first

coinage, on loan from the Congress Hall Collection in Philadelphia. These antiques, and other contemporary items, may be viewed in the Mint Director's office. Complete story and other pictures will be found on page 16.

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## *Mrs. Nixon, Daughter Go Visiting*

Mrs. Richard M. Nixon and her daughter, Julie Eisenhower, recently took a stroll "across the street" to visit with their neighbors in the Treasury Department, and to view the restored historic antiques in Mint Director Mary T. Brooks' office. The First Lady and Julie were

presented a pair of the newest medals minted by the government, those featuring Secretary Kennedy and Mrs. Brooks. After having coffee in the Mint Director's office, they posed for this picture; left to right, Secretary Kennedy, Julie, Mrs. Nixon and Mrs. Brooks. (Story on page 28.)

*COIN WORLD - JULY 29, 1970*

# New Denver Mint envisioned by 1979

*From the Washington Bureau of the Rocky Mountain News*

**WASHINGTON** — Treasury Department officials hope to have a new Denver Mint in operation by 1979 or 1980, according to testimony released Friday by the Senate treasury appropriations subcommittee.

William Dickey, deputy assistant Treasury secretary, told Sen. Gordon Allott, R-Colo., that the department expects to ask for the first money for the project next year.

"We are now proceeding as expeditiously as possible to take those steps required to secure a new mint facility to replace the existing Denver Mint facility," Dickey testified

Allott, a member of the subcommittee, noted that a Treasury Department study put U.S. needs in 1980 at 12 billion pieces. He said the Philadelphia Mint is approaching its capacity of four billion pieces, the Denver Mint its capacity of three billion pieces and the San Francisco Mint its capacity of 1½ billion pieces.

Noting that "there is very little opportunity to increase these capacities," the senator said "there is no question that the time is already here for, in fact

it is very late for, planning and construction of a new mint."

Allott said it could take two years to plan and from five to seven years to build a new mint, indicating that the process should begin now. He added that "we are facing a chronic short fall in production in the near future."

Mrs. Mary Brooks, director of the U.S. Mint, said that a department study is in progress and that "we are as anxious as you are to get underway" with construction.

The Denver Mint, built in 1904, is the oldest of the nation's three mints and produced, as of last year, about three-fourths of the nation's coins.

Earlier this year, the Denver Mint supervisor, Mrs. Betty Higby, suggested that a new facility be built in Denver, placed near a railroad spur and convenient to tourists.

*Rocky Mtn. News - Aug. 29, 1970*



# New Denver Mint Called Certainty

**Post Washington Bureau**  
WASHINGTON — Testimony released by the Senate Appropriations Committee Friday makes it certain that Denver will have a new mint before the end of the present decade.

A new mint has been made necessary by the mounting need for coins which existing facilities in Denver, Philadelphia and San Francisco will soon be unable to meet.

Sen. Gordon Allott, R-Colo., a member of the treasury-post office subcommittee of the appropriations committee was assured by Raymond Dickey, deputy assistant treasury secretary, and by Mrs. Mary Brooks,

director of the U.S. Mint, that a new mint will be built.

Allott said at a recent hearing that there was "no question that the time is already here for, and in fact is very late for, planning and construction" of a new Denver mint.

He cited figures that indicate that both the Denver and Philadelphia Mints will reach capacity in approximately one year and that San Francisco is already at capacity.

"There is virtually no opportunity to increase these capacities," Allott added, and the United States is facing a "chronic shortfall in production in the near future."

He then asked Mrs. Brooks about plans for replacement of the present Denver Mint with a new and larger mint in Denver.

Mrs. Brooks said she agreed with Allott's mint production figures and added, "We feel it is very important to get started."

She indicated the Treasury Department would probably ask the appropriations committee for funds for the new mint in the 1972 budget. Dickey said the Treasury Department feels a new Denver mint can be completed by 1979 or 1980.

By that time, Allott and Mrs. Brooks agreed, the United States will need a capacity of 12 billion coins.

Even with the assistance of the auxiliary plant in San Francisco, they said, the Denver and Philadelphia Mints will reach their maximum capacity of 8½ billion pieces by 1971. They predicted the nation will experience a gradual shortfall in coinage from then until a new Denver mint is completed.

Mrs. Brooks and Allott also agreed that plans for the new mint must be drawn up immediately.

"We are facing a period of from seven to nine years before a new mint will be operational," Allott said.

## 'PROFITABLE DEAL'

# U.S. to Mint Ike Dollars

Sen. Peter H. Dominick, R-Colo., disclosed in Denver Monday that the United States should be minting, hopefully by the middle of October, 40 per cent silver dollars commemorating the late President Dwight D. Eisenhower.

Speaking to delegates at the American Mining Congress convention in the Denver Hilton Hotel, Dominick said 150 million of the commemorative silver dollars will be sold by the Treasury Department. Of that amount, 20 million will be sold in proof sets at \$10 each, with the remainder to be uncirculated and sold at \$3 each.

Sale of the proof sets and uncirculated coins, Dominick said, is expected to produce about \$468 million, resulting in a profit to the Treasury of \$120 million "over and beyond what would be done if we sold the silver at General Services Administration sales to the general public."

Describing the project as "probably the single most profitable deal the Treasury has ever made," the state's junior senator said it is the "most worthwhile type of action we could take to stimulate the recognition of silver, create a profit for the Treasury and once again show that we've got something going for us in the silver market."

Dominick said the commemorative project "should provide the ability for silver to find its own level and thereby determine if it can get a price to make it profitable to mine and market." Silver now sells at about \$1.76 an ounce.

The senator said he believes "very strongly" that gold and silver "are on their way back" as reserves of the dollar.

"One currency after another in the world is being inflated and becoming worth less and less," he noted, "and the only way to create stability is to try



Denver Post Photo by Floyd H. McCall

**SEN. PETER DOMINICK**

A \$120 million profit.

to re-assess what the value is of gold as a reserve behind the dollar as the basic currency of the world."

Dominick also called for "some efficient banking practices" in making other countries pay their debts to the United States before allowing them to bring dollars in from anywhere they can get them to convert to gold from this nation's gold reserves.

The gold, the price of which is \$35 an ounce here, is sold elsewhere for as much as \$45 an ounce, Dominick said.

"It seems to me to be totally ridiculous . . . to keep on being patsy to the world."



# Penny shortage prompts request to stop collecting

By ROBERT DIETSCH  
*Scripps-Howard Staff Writer*

**WASHINGTON** — The United States has a penny shortage. Mrs. Mary Brooks, director of the U.S. Mint, is preparing a campaign to get more pennies into circulation. She is calling her campaign "penny power."

She already is soliciting banks to sponsor a publicity drive to persuade Americans to quit saving pennies in piggy banks and mason jars and to deposit their hoards in savings accounts. So far, bankers are less than enthusiastic.



Dietsch

While they welcome customers, they shudder at the idea of having to count out all the pennies that might be brought in for deposit.

The irony of the penny shortage — or, more accurately, scarcity — is that the Mint estimates there are 50 billion pennies in circulation today. They were minted over the last 25 years and are still around, since the "life" of a one-cent piece is estimated to be 25 years.

Pennies represent about 70 per cent of the Mint's annual production, and in the fiscal year which began July 1, the Mint expected to turn out a record 6.1 billion pennies.

That's \$61 million worth.

Because of sales taxes and retailer practices of pricing goods in odd amounts (39 cents, \$1.99) more pennies than ever are needed to do business.

Mrs. Brooks also would like the government to undertake a campaign to persuade Americans to quit saving so

many pennies. Spokesmen at the Mint say that because a penny goes such a little way these days Americans are more prone than ever to save them.

If a few billion pennies could be pried loose, then the Mint

could cut down on new penny production and concentrate instead on nickels, dimes and quarters.

The Mint hasn't turned out any half dollars this year. Under present law, a half dollar has to contain 40 per cent silver. The treasury's silver stockpiles are dwindling, and the Nixon administration wants a new law permitting half dollars to be made of copper and nickel — as are nickels, dimes and quarters.

So far, Congress has refused to go along.

# Mint to Clean \$715,000 in Coins

Dimes and quarters—\$715,000 of them—were returned to the U.S. Mint in Denver to be cleaned Tuesday after they were involved in a fiery fatal crash Sunday night on Interstate 25 between Douglas and Glen Rock, Wyo.

Mrs. Betty Higby, mint superintendent, said the shipment was en route to the Federal Reserve Bank in Helena, Mont., when the accident occurred.

## ON WAY AGAIN

It will be cleaned and re-bagged at the expense of the trucker—H. D. Hollaway Trucking Co., Inc.—and sent on its way again, Mrs. Higby said.

According to Patrolman J. F. Bey of the Wyoming State Patrol, a pickup truck driven by LeRoy C. Stone, 28, Douglas, was eastbound in a westbound lane and collided head on with the westbound Hollaway semi truck carrying the money.

Stone was killed. The truck and trailer burst into flame, but the driver, Bob Bogert, 43, and the co-driver, Mike H. Morris, 61, both of Denver, escaped unhurt.

Morris, who lives at 900 S.

Clay St., said the flames enveloped the entire front end of the tractor.

"It was lucky for us we were able to jump out the right side. If the tractor had tipped over, we would have been trapped."

Morris said the fire started

when a butane tank connection broke, spewing butane "all over the outfit."

## CAB MELTED

The heat was so intense, he said, the metal cab melted and the tires burned off.

Some of the bags containing

money were wet from firemen's hoses or burned, Morris said.

But, he said, "I don't think any money was lost."

Morris said he and Bogert, the drivers from a second truck in the convoy and two armed guards who were escorting them

guarded the money until another truck could be sent from Denver. That truck arrived about 4 a.m. Monday — about 8½ hours later — and the money then was loaded onto it and returned to Denver, Morris said.





# Rocky Mountain News

Reg. U.S. Pat. Off.

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"Give light and the people will find their own way."

'Tell the kid it's my patriotic duty to return these pennies to circulation'



## Ben Franklin, Mrs. Brooks and Mrs. Higby

PRACTICALLY SINCE the penny came into the English and American currency systems sages on both sides of the Atlantic have been belaboring us to hang onto them.

"A penny saved is two pence clear," old Ben Franklin advised readers of Poor Richard's Almanack.

Americans obviously have embraced this advice as an article of fiscal faith. Director Mary Brooks of the U.S. Mint complains so many of the 50 billion pennies in circulation have wound up at home in piggy banks that there's a scarcity of them in the marketplace, where they're needed mostly because of sales taxes.

She's trying to organize a "penny power" drive to get the thrifty to put their pennies in the bank where they'll draw interest—and, incidentally, spare the Mint the cost of turning out ever-

more pennies, which account for about 70 per cent of the Mint's production.

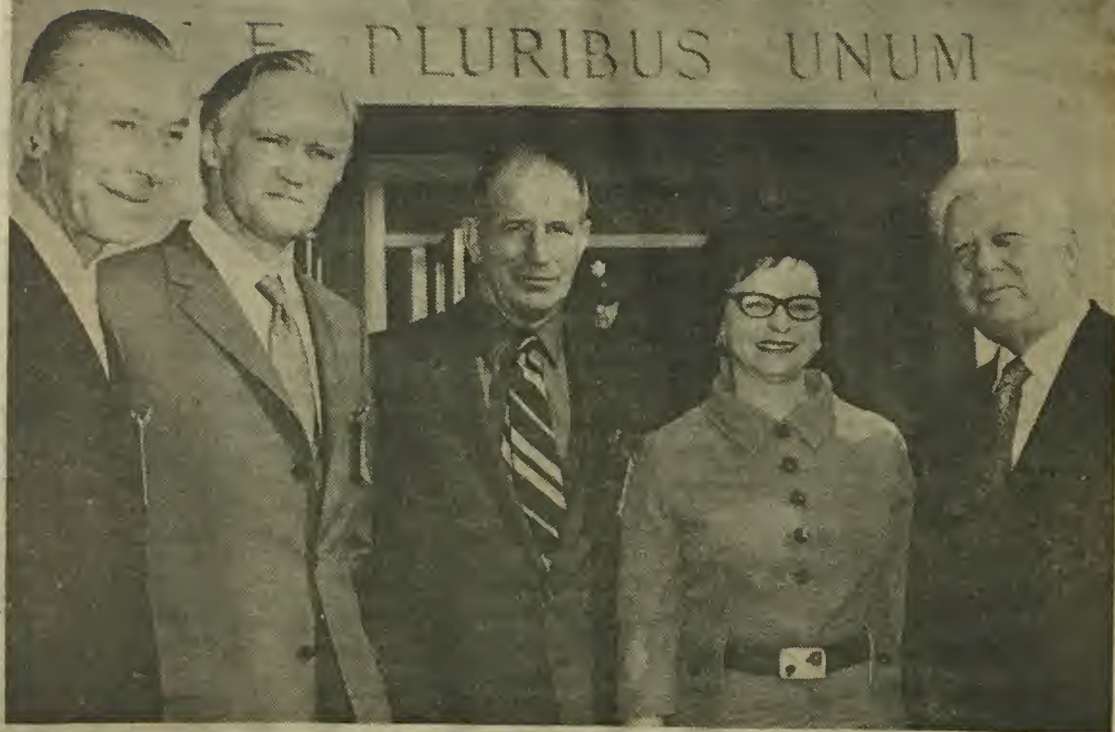
Mrs. Betty Higby, director of the Denver Mint, has been working her crews around the clock punching out pennies. The Mint has been stamping out 15,300,000 pennies a day and delivering them to banks for dispersal. The Denver Mint also coins another seven million nickels, dimes, quarters and half dollars.

Both ladies have an uphill battle. Most of us hang onto the penny these days because it's about all we can easily afford to save. And because the penny is worth so little it takes a goodly while to piggy bank enough of them to make a trip to the bank worthwhile.

But good luck to both. It costs the taxpayers money to produce pennies. They're trying to pare production costs at the Mint by every penny they can. And, as Ben Franklin said . . .

BARET





## *Assay Office Welcomes Its Chief*

The day the Secretary of the Treasury came to the United States Assay Office in San Francisco (the institution which is still a Mint in the minds of most collectors) will go down in history at the West Coast coining installation. Sharing honors with Secretary Kennedy were Robert A. Yates, superintendent of the Royal Mint, Llantrisant, Glamorgan, Wales, and Mrs.

Betty Higby, superintendent, Denver Mint. In front of the San Francisco Assay Office from left is Host John Brekle, director in charge, U.S. Assay Office, San Francisco; Superintendent James; Robert B. Bridges, assistant director in charge; Mrs. Higby, Secretary Kennedy. (Photos by V. M. Hanks Jr., San Francisco. More on Page 3).

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